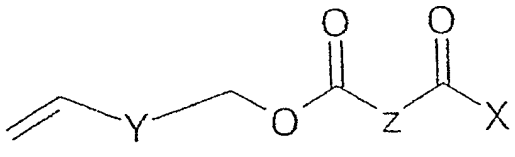
In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1-19 and add new Claims 20-40. A complete listing of the claims is listed below with proper claim identifiers.

20. (New) A compound of formula (I)



(I)

in which X represents a group that activates the α-carbonyl function;

Y represents a linear or branched, saturated C_6-C_{20} aliphatic radical, and

Z represents a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C_2-C_{10} aliphatic radical.

21. (New) The compound as claimed in claim 20, wherein Y represents a saturated C_6-C_{20} aliphatic radical substituted with one or more C_1-C_{10} alkoxy radicals.

22. (New) The compound as claimed in claim 20, wherein X represents a chlorine, bromine or fluorine atom.

23. (New) The compound as claimed in claim 22, wherein X represents a chlorine.

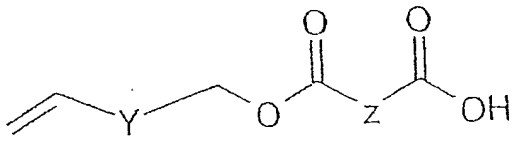
24. (New) The compound as claimed in claim 20, wherein X represents an activating group chosen from the group consisting of a nitrogenous heterocyclic radical, a radical R-C(O)-O and a radical R-O-C(O)-O-, in which R represents a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C_1-C_6 alkyl radical.

25. (New) The compound as claimed in claim 20, wherein Z represents an aliphatic radical chosen from the group consisting of $-(CH_2)_2-$, $-(CH_2)_3-$, $-CH_2-CH(CH_3)-CH_2-$ and $-CH_2-C(CH_3)_2-CH_2-$.

26. (New) The compound as claimed in claim 20, wherein Z represents the aliphatic radical – $(CH_2)_3-$ and Y represents an octanediyl radical, of formula – $(CH_2)_8-$.

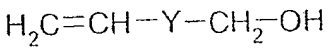
27. (New) A process for synthesizing the compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 20, comprising the following successive steps:

a) formation of an acid of formula (II)



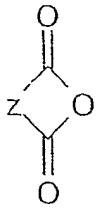
(II)

via acylation reaction of an alcohol of formula (III)



(III)

with an acid anhydride of formula (IV)



(IV)

in which Z, Y and n have the same meanings as those given for formula (I);

b) formation of the product of formula (I) via substitution of the –OH radical of the acid of formula (II) with a radical X, in which X has the same meaning as that given for formula (I).

28. (New) The process as claimed in claim 27, wherein the synthetic reaction of step a) is performed by mixing, at a temperature of between 80 and 120°C, the acid anhydride of formula (IV) and the alcohol of formula (III).

29. (New) The process as claimed in claim 27, wherein, following said mixing of the acid anhydride of formula (IV) and the alcohol of formula (III), the temperature of the reaction medium is maintained at a temperature of between 70 and 120°C.

30. (New) The process as claimed in claim 27, wherein the acid anhydride of formula (IV) is chosen from the group consisting of succinic anhydride, glutaric anhydride, 3-methylglutaric anhydride and 3, 3-dimeth7ylglutaric anhydride.

31. (New) The process as claimed in claim 27, wherein X represents chlorine.

32. (New) The process as claimed in claim 31, wherein, in step b), a chlorinating agent chosen from the group consisting of phosgene, disphosgene, triphosgene, thionyl chloride and oxalyl chloride is used.

33. (New) The process as claimed in claim 32, wherein when the chlorinating agent is phosgene, diphosgene or triphosgene, a catalyst chosen from the group consisting of disubstituted N, N-alkylamides is used.

34. (New) The process as claimed in claim 27, wherein X represents an activating group chosen from the group consisting of a nitrogenous heterocyclic radical, a radical R-C(O)-O and a radical R-O-C(O)-O-, in which R represents a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C_1C_6 alkyl radical.

35. (New) A method, for increasing the hydrophobic nature of polymers comprising amine functions comprising a step of reacting said amine functions with compound of formula (I) to form an amide bond.

36. (New) The method as claimed in claim 35, for waterproofing and/or steam-permeabilizing natural textile fibers, especially wool or silk fibers.

37. (New) A method for increasing the hydrophobic nature of polymers comprising hydroxyl functions by reacting said hydroxyl functions with compound of formula (I) to form an ester bond.

38. (New) A method for modifying the reactivity of oligosaccharides by grafting compound of formula (I) onto at least one hydroxyl function of said sucrose via formation of an ester bond.

39. (New) A support based on natural textile fibers comprising hydroxyl and/or amine functions onto which is grated at least one compound of formula (I) via formation of an ester and/or amide bond with said hydroxyl and/or amine functions of said support, with the exception of supports based on cellulose fibers.

40. (New) The support as claimed in claim 39, wherein the natural textile fibers are silk or wool fibers.

Respectfully submitted,

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